THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): The NCCF has reported that it has undertaken the following economy measures to effect reduction of expenditure in fulfilling the conditions as stipulated by Government of India while releasing a sum of Rs. 1.10 crores towards the share capital of NCCF during 1988-89.

(i) NCCF has closed down three of its depots and down graded a branch to a depot. Review of working in respect of three more branches are being made.

(ii) Various staff benefits have been curtailed by the NCCF, besides, it is exercising stricter control on sanctioning expenses under various heads.

(iii) Stricter control is also being exercised by the NCCF in utilisation of bank finance in order to reduce the interest cost.

(iv) The NCCF is following up the recovery of outstanding dues with the parties and have reported to have collected an amount of Rs. 1.20 crores by May, 1989.

Irregularities in appointment and promotion in Indian Council of Agricultural Research

1207. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the posts on which the following nine Agricultural Scientists were working in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research or associated institutions, and whether each one of them committed suicide in the year mentioned below:

Dr. M.T. Joseph	1960
S.S. Batra	1970
Dr. Vinod Shah	1972
Dr. K. Jyoti	1975
S. Chandrashekhran	1976
B.S. Menon	1978
S.B. Raghvan	1980
R.R. Patro	1986
S.D. Shahu	1986

(b) the circumstances of each case, due to which the country lost such precious lives; and

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in Nava Bharat Times of the 17th June, 1989 revealing gross irregularities in the ICAR in matters of appointments and promotions; and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) The post held by each individual and the year of suicide/death is as under:

Name and post held	Year of suicide/ death
1	2	3
1.	Dr. M.T. Joseph Senior Technical Assistant (I.A.R.I.)	1960
2.	Shri S. S. Batra Assistant Research Officer (Veterinary) Southern Regional Station, N.D.R.I., Bangalore.	1970

1	2	3
3.	Dr. Vinod Shah Sr. Agronomist & Associate Coordinator, All India Maize Improvement Project, I.A.R.I.	1972
4.	Miss K. Jyoti Sr. Technical Asstt. I.C.A.R. Headquarters.	1975
5.	Shri Bangalore Chandrashekhran (Correct name of the deceased is Bangalore Chander Shekhar) He was a Ph.D. Student.	1976
6.	Shri Vidya Sagar Menon (Correct name of the deceased is Shri Vidya Sagar Menon). He was a Ph.D. Student.	1978
7.	Shri S.B. Raghavan Scientist S-1 (I.C.A.R. Headquarters)	1980
8.	Shri R.R. Patro Technical Officer (T-6) N.D.R.I., Karnal	1986
9.	Shri S.D. Shahu Scientist (S-2) (F&AM), (I.A.R.I.)	1986

Four of them were Scientists, three Technical hands and two students.

(b) The Circumrtances which led to their unnatural deaths are as under :—

Dr. M. T. Joseph: The reason for the suicide of Dr. Joseph was reported to be repeated failure of his efforts to get himself selected for a higher post. The delay in forwarding of his application for a post at the Haffkins Institute seemed to have been the last straw.

Shri S. S. Batra: His dead body was found lying in the well of N.D.R.I. Campus in Bangalore. It could not be established whether it was a case of suicide or an accidental death.

Dr. Vinod Shah: The main reason appears to be that he had been overlooked by a Selection Committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for a higher post.

Relationship of the Heads of Divisions and Professors with other Members of the Divisional Staff and alleged unhelpful attitude of Junior Research Workers and field staff towards Seniors appeared to be other reasons.

Miss. K. Jyoti: Her suicide was reported to be due to private reasons.

Shri Bangalore Chander Shekhar: He had committed suicide as per the note left by him, due to family problems and health reasons.

Shri Vidya Sagar Menon: According to the note left by him he had committed suicide because of some complication in his love affairs.

Shri S. B. Raghavan: Sudden disappearance of his father was reported to have made Shri Raghavan mentally upset and he had been under treatment of two psychiatrists. This could have been the reason of his suicide.

Shri R. R. Patro: The enquiries conducted by the I.C.A.R. revealed that he was mentally depressed due to personal reasons and family problems.

Shri S. D. Shahu: The reasons of his suicide could not be established.

(c) The position in respect of the points raised in the said news item is given below:—

1. *Appointment of Project Director (WTC), IARI. New Delhi.*

The post of Project Director (WTC) I.A.R.I. New Delhi in the pre-revised pay scael of Rs. 2000-2500 was advertised by the A.S.R.B. in 1987. Subsequent to that, as per the decision of the I.C.A.R. Headquarters, the qualification was amended to attract more candidates and accordingly a revised requisition for the post was sent to the A.S.R.B. on 8th Sept., 1987. The Board issued corrigendum on 22-12-87. The Board held interview on 21-7-88 and recommended Dr. P. B. S. Sarma against this post. The President, I.C A.R., however, did not accept the recommendation of the Board and ordered that the post be re-advertised with broad-based qualifications.

2. *Allegation against the Chairman, A.S.R.B. in respect of the promotion of Smt. Sarla.*

Smt. Sarla was appointed to Grade S-I w.e.f. 5-9-77 on the basis of direct recruitment through A.R.S. Examination. She became eligible for promotion after she completed five years of service in Grade S-I in 1982. But A.S.R.B. which, with the help of an Assessment Committee, examined her suitability for promotion, recommended her promotion w.e.f. Ist July, 1985. She was recommended her promotion as she scored more than 61 per cent marks in the assessment, as is required under the rules. The Chairman of the Assessment Committee was a retired Professor of Mohan Lal Sukhadia University and not the Chairman, A.S.R.B. himself.

3. *Study Leave*

All types of leave including study leave are taken into account for computing five years period for determining the eligibilty of a Scientist for assessment. There is no bar to a scientist getting promotion during study leave.

4. *Failure to get promotion on mere length of service.*

If a scientist with longer years of service has no worthwhile contributions to his credit, he cannot be given promotions just because of the length of his service.

5. *Promotion of Scientists in Agricultural Research Service.*

The grant of promotion to the Scientists borne on the Agricultural Research Service of the Council is governed by the rules of the service and the criteria framed thereunder which are just, fair and free from bias. However, a Scientist who is not satisfied with the decision in this regard was entitled to apply for a review of the order. In pursuance of this provision, 1323 scientists applied for review. Their representations were re-examined by the Agricultural Scientists' Recruitment Board. As a result of such re-examination, the Agricultural Scientists' Recruitment Board recommended grant of promotion to 174 Scientists who had not been granted promotion earlier, and ante dation of promotion to 242 scientists.

Dr. Kaul, referred to in the new item has been given his due after review.

6. *Promotion granted to some Scientists even before completion of their probation period.*

This was done in compliance with the directions of the Delhi High Court in their judgement dated 5-3-87 in the CWP No. 1192/84.